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DEFENDANTS ARRESTED IN "HIGHWAY MEN" INVESTIGATION
18-month ATF-Led Task Force Targeted Gun and Drug Traffickers in Virginia

(Alexandria, VA) - The first of more than 60 individuals involved in firearms related violence, armed narcotics trafficking, and the straw-purchase of firearms in northern Virginia were arrested on July 11 and 12 as part of a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)-led joint task force operation, "*The Highway Men.*" Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Paul Ebert, Commonwealth Attorney for Prince William County, Virginia, William J. Hoover, Special Agent in Charge, ATF, and Charlie T. Deane, Chief, Prince William County Police Department, made the announcement at a press conference today in Prince William County following the arrests.

Over 250 federal, state and local law enforcement officers participated in the 18-month "*Highway Men*" investigation targeting the eastern area of Prince William County, including the towns of Woodbridge, Dale City, Lake Ridge, Dumfries and Occoquan.

United States Attorney Rosenberg stated, "This is a very good day in Prince William County, for dozens of dangerous drug and gun criminals are off of our streets. We are going to do all we can to return the streets to our good citizens and to keep the criminals where they belong – behind bars."

“This 18-month investigation represents ATF’s long-term commitment to work with our local law enforcement partners to uncover and remove criminal elements from our communities,” said ATF Special Agent in Charge William J. Hoover.

“I appreciate the assistance and resources provided by all of the departments and agencies that participated in this operation.” said Prince William County, Va. Police Chief Charlie T. Deane.

To date, the “Highway Men” undercover investigation conducted 96 undercover buys of firearms and/or narcotics more than 60 individuals, 48 of whom face federal charges. In addition, several defendants have been charged with being convicted felons in possession of a firearm. Each of the federal firearms charges carries a maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment.

During the course of the investigation, 31 firearms were taken off of the streets and out of the hands of criminals, some of which were stolen; and law enforcement seized various amounts of cocaine, marijuana, Dilaudid (synthetic heroin) pills, Oxycontin pills, ecstasy pills and percocete pills, as well as over several thousands of dollars in cash.

The “Highway Men” investigation was conducted as a community impact investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in conjunction with the Prince William County Regional Drug Task Force, which is comprised of the Prince William County, Manassas City, Manassas Park and Virginia State Police Departments. In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Marshals Service provided significant assistance.

The United States Marshals Service-Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF), ATF, and the Prince William County Regional Drug Task Force will continue to execute search and federal and/or Virginia State arrest warrants on the remaining individuals.

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